



*Above photo: Personnel Secretary Erwin Roberts, Meredith Brown, KSU President Mary Sias and Education Secretary Virginia Fox. Photo at right: Personnel Secretary Erwin Roberts, Janet Washington, KSU President Mary Sias and Education Secretary Virginia Fox.*

#### **CHFS Focus Employee Spotlight: Cabinet employees graduate from state management training programs**

Cabinet employees devote much time to continuing their educations and enhancing their job skills. One way many employees do this is by enrolling in state government managerial trainee programs.

CHFS' Meredith Brown and Janet Washington recently completed the two-year Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program (GMMTP). The program was created by executive order in August 1995.

The Kentucky Certified Public Manager Program is another option that enables workers to earn public management certification through the National Certified Public Manager Consortium.

Both programs enhance graduates' on-the-job skills and qualify them to seek upper-level positions in state government.

As GMMTP graduates, Brown and Washington join a select group of highly trained individuals chosen to participate in the management trainee program, the first program of its kind designed to increase the representation of minority managers in state government.

Brown, a quality assurance administrator in the First Steps Program, and Washington, a Department for Community Based Services public assistance program specialist in



Jefferson County, completed their GMMTP requirements over the summer and graduated, Nov. 4.

CHFS Secretary James W. Holsinger Jr., M.D., was on hand to celebrate Brown and Washington's achievements.

The CPM program is a rigorous training course requiring 300 hours of classroom instruction and completion of four projects and several tests. The program normally takes four years to finish, resulting in official certification as a nationally recognized Certified Public Manager.

Jeff Robbins, a DCBS administrator associate in the Lincoln Trail Service Region and Fred Culbertson, an internal policy analyst with the Department for Medicaid Services, graduated from the CPM program on Nov. 8 at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda.

Undersecretary for Administrative and Fiscal Affairs Mike Burnside attended the event to show support for the Cabinet's CMP graduates.

Since completing their programs, all said they intend to pursue management positions in state government or use the skills they have gained in their current positions.

Congratulations to Brown, Culbertson, Robbins and Washington for devoting the time and energy to enhance their job skills, further their career opportunities and better serve the people of Kentucky.

#### **CHFS Focus Program Spotlight: CHFS Has Found a "Keeper"**

*Announcing KY-EPHRS, A New Electronic Record System for Public Health in the Commonwealth*

The American Health Information Management Association designated Health Information and Technology Week (Nov. 6-12, 2005) 16 years ago to

November 14, 2005

advance the goal of educating the public about the important role of health information management and information technology in health care. This year's Health Information and Technology Week theme, "Information for a Healthy Nation,," reflects the growing trend toward adoption of electronic health records.

The state Department for Public Health (DPH) understands the important role computer-based patient records will play in improving health care quality, reducing costs and providing practicing health professionals with up-to-date information. Paper records and isolated information systems can no longer support public and private health professionals who need real-time access to information for decision making at the point of care. Also becoming impractical is effective support of real-time surveillance and detection, a cornerstone of response to public health emergencies such as bioterrorism.

To comply with federal requirements and respond to an apparent need, DPH has engaged in a multi-year collaborative effort to develop a Kentucky Electronic Public Health Record System (KY-EPHRS). For health professionals this system will mean less time spent searching for immunization records, health screening results, infectious disease history and other patient data. KY-EPHRS is accessible using a Web browser and supported by a robust security model that addresses HIPAA concerns and restricts access to sensitive patient health information.

Blake Bennett and Shale Detwiler, members of the KY-EPHRS Office of Information Technology team, said the KY-EPHRS team is dedicated to supporting DPH's health care technology needs and to helping Kentucky move to the forefront of the e-health world.

Currently the KY-EPHRS includes the Smallpox Pre-event Vaccination Module and the Disease Surveillance Module (DSM), both of which are critical components of public health preparedness tools that will be made available through the DPH.

The DSM collects information on reportable, communicable diseases in an effort to detect, prevent and control their spread. When a disease outbreak occurs, rapid access to information is necessary for rapid response. The DSM was initially implemented in July 2005 and full implementation will be completed soon.

While KY-EPHRS is a communication structure to support disease tracking and the disease reporting status of patients, there is no substitute for a prompt phone call to the health department when urgent cases appear. Before Kentucky had a "keeper" system, all disease reports were

handwritten on paper forms which were then mailed or faxed from a provider to a local health department (LHD). The health department would then investigate the disease event, record its findings and forward them on to DPH. Information would flow in one direction once it left the treating facility, and the case seemed to "disappear" into the system.

With the new KY-EPHRS system, data is entered exactly where and when the event occurs and rapidly travels up the chain and allows access to the data at all stages to all facilities in the process. The system offers an internal secure messaging system, which can include attached test results. Ultimately, information collected in the modules can also be electronically forward to the CDC in weekly reports.

The concept of a central, electronic public health record in Kentucky is gaining acceptance. Plans are to expand KY-EPHRS to include other critical public health programs. In the planning or development stages for future inclusion in the KY-EPHRS are:

- A statewide immunization registry and vaccine inventory management system;
- A childhood lead surveillance and case management module; and
- A newborn screening module.

A help center has been established to support current and future stakeholders of the KY-EPHRS. For more information please visit the DPH Web site at <http://www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/ephrs>.

### **First Lady unveils new Breast Cancer Awareness License Plate**

*Tax check-off, trust fund and board also announced*

First Lady Glenna Fletcher unveiled the new Kentucky Breast Cancer Awareness license plate on Nov. 9 and announced that 900



advance orders for the plate are needed before Dec. 31 to put the license plate into production. According to the Kentucky Breast Cancer Alliance, which is heading the effort to produce the license plate, about 350 orders have been received to date.

Breast cancer is the No. 2 cause of cancer deaths among women in Kentucky. More than 3,300 women in Kentucky were diagnosed with breast cancer and 651 women died

November 14, 2005

from breast cancer in 2002. Another 3,300 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in Kentucky this year.

During the ceremony to unveil the license plate at the Governor's Mansion, Mrs. Fletcher said, "While breast cancer predominantly strikes women, the impact of this disease is also felt and shared by the families, co-workers, neighbors and friends of those diagnosed. It is my sincere hope that everyone will come together to support this cause and raise awareness across this great state."

Maria Yepes, a 31-year-old artist from Colombia who now lives in Louisville, submitted the winning design, which was chosen from 60 other contest entries.

The license plate design features the colors pink and white and the ribbon image that have become universally associated with breast cancer awareness and advocacy. The words "Driving for a Cure" appear in blue below the license plate numerals.

At the same event, James W. Holsinger Jr., M.D., secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, announced the creation of the Breast Cancer Research and Education Trust Fund.

The 2005 General Assembly established the trust fund to support and advance breast cancer research, education, treatment, screening and awareness efforts in the state. The trust fund is managed by a board of directors that will award competitive grants to eligible organizations providing breast cancer programs and services.

Proceeds from a state income tax check-off beginning with the 2005 tax year will help finance the work of the trust fund.

Members of the Kentucky Breast Cancer Research and Education Trust Fund Board of Directors were also announced at the event. They are:

Director of the University of Louisville Brown Cancer Center, Donald Miller; Director of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, Alfred Cohen; President of the Kentucky Breast Cancer Alliance, Fran Berg; Directors of the Kentucky Cancer Programs East, Connie Sorrell and West, Debra Armstrong; Holsinger; Commissioner of Public Health, William Hacker, M.D.; and two citizen members, Mary Greene Sharfe of Frankfort and Shirley Sue Bishop of Manchester. Sharfe and Bishop also are breast cancer survivors.

For more information about the Kentucky Breast Cancer Awareness License Plate, call the Kentucky Breast Cancer Alliance at (502) 895-5930. Order forms are available

online at [www.kentuckybreastcanceralliance.org](http://www.kentuckybreastcanceralliance.org) or by mail upon request.

### **Creating the Kentucky Breast Cancer License Plate**

Legislation adopted by the 2005 General Assembly allows designation of official state license plates by non-profit organizations that can obtain at least 900 advance orders. In one of its most ambitious campaigns to date, the alliance undertook the task of establishing the Kentucky Breast Cancer Awareness license plate.

The alliance sponsored a contest to select a design for the plate, which was unveiled Nov. 9 by First Lady Glenna Fletcher at a special ceremony at the Governor's Mansion.

Maria Yepes, 31, is the artist whose design was chosen as the winner out of 60 contest entries.

The Louisville resident and design artist has worked for major corporations and as a freelance artist in her native Colombia. In 2002, she married and moved to Louisville. Her husband is employed by UPS. Yepes' boss, a breast cancer survivor, encouraged her to enter the contest.

Yepes said she wanted to create a license plate design featuring the colors pink and white and the ribbon image that universally symbolizes breast cancer awareness and advocacy.

The white lines in the design suggest a human silhouette and the color and light value gradients begin on the left side of the silhouette to symbolize the human heart. The words "Driving for a Cure" appear in blue below the license numerals.

At the unveiling ceremony, Mrs. Fletcher said about the plate, "While this is a very beautiful design, what is more beautiful is what it represents: Kentuckians joining together to help support breast cancer awareness and advance research and treatment efforts."

To date, about 350 people have placed advance orders for the Kentucky Breast Cancer Awareness license plate. At least 900 advance orders must be received by Dec. 31 to produce the plate.

To place license plate orders or for more information, go online to the KBCA Web site at [www.kentuckybreastcanceralliance.org](http://www.kentuckybreastcanceralliance.org).



November 14, 2005

### **‘We need to hear from you!’ – 2005 Employee Satisfaction Survey**

The Office of Human Resource Management wants to thank CHFS employees who have responded to the 2005 Employee Satisfaction Survey.



As of Nov. 4, more than 11 percent of the Cabinet workforce had taken the survey. Staff and Cabinet contractors may take the survey through Nov. 16.

Results of the survey will be used to identify successes and address areas in need of improvement, so it's important for all CHFS employees to make their voices heard by taking the survey.

The survey is available online at:

<https://webapp.chfsnet.ky.gov/EmployeeSatisfactionSurvey/>

When completing the survey, please remember:

1. All responses are anonymous.
2. All questions should be completed.  
\*Please note that several departments/offices have added topical questions for their specific employees.
3. Average responses per question will be published for each department/office, region and facility.
4. All comments will be published; however, these will be reviewed and edited to ensure anonymity.
5. Comments are welcome regarding office environment, work processes and other issues pertinent to employment with the Cabinet.  
\*This is not the forum for personal comments/attacks regarding specific individuals.
6. Employees are encouraged to submit recommendations to resolve problems.

### **“Great American Smokeout” Set for Nov. 17**

Health organizations and local health departments across Kentucky and the nation once again are gearing up for the Great American Smokeout, a nationally recognized event to challenge people to stop using tobacco products for the day.



Through the event, health officials hope to raise public awareness of the

health risks of tobacco use and the many effective ways available to quit using tobacco.

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) and the American Cancer Society encourage smokers to take advantage of this year's Great American Smokeout on Thursday, Nov. 17, and quit smoking for good.

“Today is a great opportunity to lay down the foundation for becoming healthy,” said Teresa Barton, executive director of ODCP. “The Office of Drug Control Policy encourages you to take advantage of the programs offered at health departments, through local ASAP boards and champions coalitions that can assist you with this addiction. Quitting smoking saves money and cuts the risks of cancer, lung and heart disease, stroke and other respiratory illnesses.”

Historically, Americans try to quit smoking during the Great American Smokeout more than any other day of the year, including New Year's Day.

“We hope people will contact their local health department to find out what is happening in their area,” said Irene Centers, program manager for the state Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program in CHFS. “The smokeout offers public support and a feeling of camaraderie with others who are trying to give up cigarettes.”

Some smokeout activities taking place across the state include:

- Northern Kentucky Health Department is promoting a Smoke-Free Day of Dining. The event will feature a newspaper ad with a coupon offering “Smoke-Free” dining specials on Nov. 17.
- In Muhlenburg County, the health department will host an all-day event at the Job Corps Center focusing on the hazards of tobacco use and the various methods of quitting.
- The Pennyriple District Health Department will conduct “Operation Storefront,” an initiative where youth visit stores that sell tobacco products to ensure compliance with tobacco sale and display regulations.
- In Mercer County, the health department uses this opportunity to distribute updated copies of the area's Smoke-Free Dining Guide.
- Woodford County is planning a weekend event to educate high school athletes about the hazards of tobacco use and effects on health and physical activity.

November 14, 2005

- The Marion County Library will hold a karaoke event for teens on Nov. 17 to draw attention to the health risks of tobacco use.
- St. Catharine College in Washington County is launching a "Look Who Has Quit" campaign that will include short statements from former smokers about the positive outcomes of quitting.

Kentucky, at 27.5 percent, leads the nation in the rate of adults who smoke, according to a study released by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The state's youth tobacco survey indicates 28 percent of Kentucky teens smoke. The percentage of women who smoke during their pregnancy is 24 percent. Kentucky has the fifth highest occurrence of heart disease and leads the nation in lung cancer mortality.

Additionally, Kentucky's annual health care costs directly attributable to smoking are \$1.17 billion; the portion covered by the state's Medicaid program is \$380 million.

"Very few people quit the first time they try," said Centers. "We want to encourage people to keep trying."

The results of numerous surveys indicate that two-thirds of all smokers say they would like to quit smoking and nearly half of all smokers try to quit smoking each year; but the addiction to nicotine can be difficult to overcome.

Stop smoking programs like Cooper/Clayton combine nicotine replacement therapy with behavioral modification over a 12-week period. Physicians also can provide prescription medication to help patients deal with nicotine withdrawal symptoms.

"I encourage smokers to contact their local health department for a schedule of smoking cessation programs in their area," said William Hacker, M.D., commissioner of public health. "Smokers can also speak with their personal physician who can explain the health risks of smoking and the effect it is having on their health and quality of life."

A national quit line is available to provide support when the conviction to quit waivers. Kentucky's tobacco cessation quit line number, 1-(800)-QUIT NOW, automatically routes callers to the state-run quit line which then puts users in touch with programs that can help them give up tobacco.

The Health and Human Services Web site, [www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov), offers online advice and downloadable information to make cessation easier. The American Lung Association also offers a Web-based smoking cessation program, Freedom from Smoking, at

[www.lungusa.org/ffs/index.html](http://www.lungusa.org/ffs/index.html) for individual assistance. For online information about the Cooper/Clayton Method to Stop Smoking, visit [www.kcr.uky.edu/kcp/cooperclayton.htm](http://www.kcr.uky.edu/kcp/cooperclayton.htm).

The Great American Smokeout is a national campaign initiated by the American Cancer Society in 1977 to draw attention to the health risks of tobacco use and secondhand smoke.

## **Kentucky Suicide Prevention Group Observes National Survivors of Suicide Day Nov. 19**

For the third year in a row, the Kentucky Suicide Prevention Group (KSPG) is participating in National Survivors of Suicide Day.

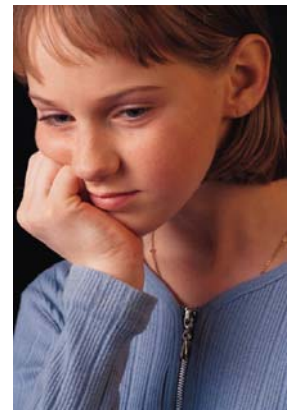
The Nov. 19 event will help link people who have dealt with the tragedy of suicide loss, giving them a network of support and resource tools.

This initiative began several years ago in conjunction with a national teleconference.

"Survivors of suicide experience a terrible trauma, which leaves a lingering sense of grief and loss," said John Burt, commissioner of the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services (MH/MR). "Kentucky recognizes the tremendous need to raise awareness concerning suicide prevention. By building a strong network of suicide survivors and advocates – and helping them communicate with each other – we are strengthening our capacity to respond to the needs of those who have lost loved ones to suicide. Ultimately, we hope, this reduces the number of suicide attempts and deaths in the commonwealth."

National Survivors of Suicide Day was created by a U.S. Senate resolution, through the efforts of Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, who lost his father to suicide. Every year, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) sponsors a nationwide event to provide an opportunity for the national survivor community to come together for support, healing, information and empowerment.

AFSP's National Survivors of Suicide Day links simultaneous survivor conferences throughout the country. Each local conference site is organized independently, but are all connected through a live national broadcast by



November 14, 2005

satellite and on the Web. This unique network of healing conferences helps survivors connect with others who have survived the tragedy of suicide loss and express and understand the powerful emotions they experience.

The event is sponsored by the KSPG, MH/MR, Hospice of the Bluegrass and the Nathan Alan Eisert Foundation.

For more information or to register for the suicide survivor day conference, visit  
[http://mhmr.ky.gov/mhsas/files/sos2005Brochure\\_final.pdf](http://mhmr.ky.gov/mhsas/files/sos2005Brochure_final.pdf)

## **CHFS Focus Health Tip of the Week: Recognize and respect family care givers**

*By Anne Parr, R.N.*

Family caregivers provide support and assistance to family and others who are chronically ill or disabled and unable to care for themselves. Unfortunately, as many individuals and families know, there is nothing simple about family caregiving. National Family Caregivers Month in November is designated to recognize and respect the work of these selfless individuals.



Caregiving is hard work and it also can be emotionally and physically painful. Caregiving involves loving, giving, sharing, accepting and learning new things, all of which often require great endurance. Sometimes, caregiving raises questions, but offers few answers and often means caregivers must step out of the mainstream.

More than 50 million people provide care for a chronically ill, disabled or aged family member or friend during any given year. Caregiving is no longer predominantly a women's issue. Men now make up 44 percent of the caregiving population.

For more information visit the National Family Caregivers Association at [www.thefamilycaregiver.org](http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org).

## **Employee Enrichment**

*By Anya Armes Weber*



*Employee Enrichment is a weekly feature for CHFS staff. These tips for making work better focus on team building, customer service and personal development.*

How do you cope when you've been passed over – for a promotion, an award or a choice slot on a work team? Sheenah Hankin, author of “Complete Confidence: A Handbook,” says that everyone will have to face this situation at some point.

Hankin suggests you focus on your shortcomings to correct them. Face up to your disappointment and use it as encouragement to change. Give yourself a boost by remembering the times you were chosen. If you want to be selected for something, work on developing the qualities to make you the best candidate. Even if you aren't chosen, you will have gained skills that will improve your performance and make you a more attractive choice next time.